

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on April 10, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have editorially amended claim 1 and cancelled claims 4-7 without prejudice. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim, and claims 1-3 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 was objected to for use of an abbreviation, and has been amended to recite the term in full. It is therefore respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

TWAIN (Tool Without An Interesting Name) is a well-known standard for interfacing image acquisition devices. However, the words underlying the acronym have little or no useful meaning, and so have been placed in parentheses.

Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 USC §112 for lack of antecedent basis. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to change "the image data hyperlink embedded document" to "the image data hyperlink embedded hypertext", which has antecedent basis within the claim.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over the combination of *Kim et al.* (US 2003/0120729 A1) with *Kuroshima et al.* (US 6,782,426 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kim et al. teaches a network image transmission system to transmit image data that has HTML page embedding links. *Kim et al.* does not teach the "user-site TWAIN data management program" included in the host.

Kuroshima et al. teaches a server-client system wherein a TWAIN device such as a scanner having a versatile interface is used and an HTTP protocol is used.

The Office Action admits that *Kim et al.* does not teach a TWAIN interface, but alleges that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a TWAIN interface as taught by *Kuroshima et al.*, on the ground that such a TWAIN interface would simplify the scanning process by enhancing the compatibility of the image-handling software and hardware of the system, and relies upon page 1, lines 16-17, of the present application for the motivation or suggestion to combine.

However, neither *Kim et al.* nor *Kuroshima et al.* teaches or suggests a "host including: a user-site TWAIN data management program" as is recited in claim 1.

The Office Action alleges on page 4, line 13, that a web browser is a user-site data management program, but does not go so far as to assert that a web browser is a "user-site TWAIN data management program" (*emphasis added*) as actually claimed. It is well known in the art that web browsers such as e.g., Internet Explorer or Netscape (and its later variants, Mozilla and Firefox) are not

TWAIN compliant, and therefore cannot constitute a "user-site *TWAIN* data management program".

Further, neither *Kim et al.* nor *Kuroshima et al.* discloses a "TWAIN (Tool Without An Interesting Name) network image transmission system" as recited in claim 1, and therefore *Kim et al.* and *Kuroshima et al.* could not be combined to achieve the improved TWAIN network system of the present application

Consequently, neither *Kim et al.* nor *Kuroshima et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, teach or suggest all the features of claim 1, which is therefore allowable, as are claims 2 and 3 that depend therefrom.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENT

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